

Greetings!

March 1, 2012

It is my pleasure to welcome you to my blog 'Incarcerated Poetry: Intriguing Words of Conviction.'

The following is written to afford you the opportunity to get to know a little about myself other than what you may assume by reading my poetry, and also to provide you with a little enlightenment in regards to what to anticipate from my blog.

Foremost, to enlighten you briefly about myself and hopefully provide you with a broader understanding of myself, I am an African/Puerto Rican-American and I write under the pseudonym 'The Peoples' Poet.'

Who is The Peoples' Poet one may inquire? Well, my birth name is David (Bryant) Pannell and I am known among my peers, friends and family as TayQuan or Tay.

I am an ex gang member, specifically Blood. I am currently single, childless (but I loooove them!) and thirty-eight years of age at the time of this writing.

I come from a physically abusive household of six (6) other siblings, being equally divided in gender and one being my twin sister.

Unfortunately I was never afforded the opportunity to meet my father and was raised by a 'mother' that really did not care and a so-called 'step-father' who was the source of such abuse.

Although I come from a rather large family, such family ties are basically nonexistence, mainly due to the fact that I was raised in the streets,

et al. This has presented a hardship in many areas, which I am anticipating diminishing through the existence of my blog, e.g., reestablishing communication and reconnecting with society.

I am basically an autodidact and currently do not possess a high school diploma or GED, mainly due to the fact that it never interested me. However, it has become my goal to obtain one in the future.

Currently I've been incarcerated for fourteen years and ~~five~~ months and I am serving a twenty-one and a half to life sentence for an armed robbery, et cetera, in addition to a new prison charge of promoting prison contraband.

I am currently due to see my first parole board the month of November 2018. However, my conviction is pending appeal and I am anticipating a greater tomorrow... if tomorrow shall follow.

Although I did not commit the crime that brought me to prison, I admit that I am no stranger to prison. Disappointing to say, however, unfortunately, prison/incarceration has been apart of my life since a toddler—literally,—i.e., when the so-called 'step-father' entered my life. At the same time, I actually became a statistic to the system at the early age of twelve. From boys honest to youthful offender facilities to correctional services.

During my youthful incarceration at Spofford Youth Center in Bronx, N.Y. I was introduced to poetry—the art of drama in general by my 'math' teacher Mr. Fox. Since then poetry has become my outlet to express my views, thoughts, pain and feelings in general—as well as those of others. And in doing such it has afforded me the opportuni-

try to assuage the pain and frustration, along with other feelings that may reside within myself.

Understand that I am a poet that loves to write. In doing such I write for all those who may be afraid or unable to express their thoughts and feelings in a positive way. Therefore, I have decided to take on the pseudonym 'The People's Poet,' because through my poetry I express the people's thoughts and feelings for your inspiration, enlightenment, upliftment, entertainment and encouragement for you to perhaps do the same someday. Why not? If I can do it, then so can you!

At the same time, there are many things that inspire me to write; whether it is something that I've heard, saw, thought, felt, read or perhaps a conversation in general—and even my own personal issues.

The intent of 'Incarcerated Poetry: Intriguing Words of Conviction' among other things is to intrigue the mind, satisfy your curiosity, nourish and soothe the soul and give you something to think about long after your reading.

With these 'Intriguing Words of Conviction' I hope to give you a glimpse into the lives of every incarcerated man, woman and child regardless of ethnicity, et cetera. So as you begin to read my poetry and enter into my mind, please know that you are actually entering into the minds of many.

I only ask of you to please keep an open mind, do not misunderstand me as an individual based on the contents of my poetry and refrain from taking me literally. Remember I am 'The People's Poet' and some things

'may not relate directly to myself as a whole.

Society tends to view and judge us as one in the same. And in some ways that judgment may in fact be true. However, each one of us has our own individual pain, anger, regret, loneliness, etcetera that is expressed through our ways and actions, and are a result of our own personal issues.

However, please understand that it is not my intent to make this blog entirely about pain, hurt and disappointment nor write solely based on the issues of the physical confinement. I will also be speaking on issues such as beauty, pride, strength, love, determination, wants, needs, goals, upliftment, encouragement, provide advise for the youth as well as share a little insight into our daily day-to-day environment as prisoners - i.e., those of the physical confinement.

Through my writings I will attempt to touch on as many areas as possible in order to share a piece of us as a whole. In doing such I have decided to title this blog 'Incarcerated Poetry: Intriguing Words of Conviction.' More so because this blog doesn't only reflect myself and my thoughts. It reflects 'us-' the incarcerated world in general, whether it be a physical, emotional, social, psychological, financial or perhaps another form of incarceration.

Through the existence of 'Incarcerated Poetry: Intriguing Words of Conviction' it is my agenda to provide you a place where you not only receive enlightenment and entertainment, but also a place where you can turn to for inspiration, support, solace through my pen and even perhaps an empathetic ear to bend when you may need someone to talk to or just someone to listen. It is said the

best person to talk to is a stranger. So, please, keep in mind that I welcome any suggestions for topics and issues that you may want to see and read about in poetry form.

Understand that nothing in this blog is written to portray any false picture nor is it my intent to spark any type of sympathy in any regards. This blog is my platform to get the incarcerated voice out to society in a positive way and share my gift with the rest of you. Hopefully unearthing you from your incarceration that may confine you in one form or another.

I do not want anyone to get the wrong impression of me in any regards. I am not an honor role prisoner, in fact, very far from one. I only request that you do not judge or stereotype me because of my predicament, et cetera. Understand that despite my past and perhaps my presents I am not a bad individual. Although I do admit that I've made some bad choices in life, which may have contributed to my present incarceration in one form or another.

However, I am also human and not just an incarcerated man. I believe that life isn't all about the destination that one has arrived at whether good or bad, but rather what one has learned throughout their journey in life and how to utilize it to their advantage in a beneficial way. Dealing with my current situation I have decided to 'use' this time rather than just doing the time or allowing the time to do me.

I believe that the past is the prologue for the future. However, one can correct most mistakes and make the best out of the life that they are blessed with. At this present moment I am doing just that and encourage you to also do the same regardless of your situation.

and/or circumstances.

I hope that you do enjoy my poetry or at least feel my words and grasp the message I am trying to convey to you.

If anyone wishes to correspond with me for any reason, please log on at www.docs.state.ny.com for my current address. I also ask that you keep in mind that I do not have direct access to the internet, so I ask that you, please use snail mail rather than post a message if such require an immediate response. However, I will receive your messages posted and will respond as they are received.

If you are a poet I anticipate reading your poetry as well if you are comfortable and willing to share such.

In conclusion of these words, I extend my deepest gratitude to all those that supported me by reading my blog, et cetera. I ask that you 'please' tell others about it, and if you are incarcerated in one form or another, keep your head up, stay strong and focus at all times regardless of the circumstances.

NEVER let your situation get you down to the point you can't get up. Believe me, I've been there and know the feeling. You are in my prayers.

Remember that this blog is especially for you! So kick back, relax, click the page and enjoy the blog of Incarcerated Poetry: Intriguing Words of Conviction.

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P.S.
Please pardon mistakes.

Peace & Blessings!
I remain,
'The Peoples' Poet'